

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The disclosure of the following priority application is incorporated herein by reference:

Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-271150 filed September 18, 2002

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The auxiliary battery apparatus according to the present invention that can be detachably mounted at an electric apparatus comprises a battery loading unit that allows an external battery to be loaded therein and can be detachably mounted at the electric apparatus in place of a lid of a battery chamber of the electric apparatus, an electric connection member that connects an ~~internal~~ external battery loaded in the battery loading unit to an ~~external~~ internal battery loaded in the battery chamber of the electric apparatus as the battery loading unit is mounted, and a lid mounting unit provided at the battery loading unit, to which the lid can be attached. In this auxiliary battery apparatus, the battery in the battery loading unit is concealed as the lid is attached at the lid mounting unit. Since the lid of the electric apparatus can be attached to the auxiliary battery apparatus, it is not allowed to go missing easily.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The battery loading unit may include a battery support bed that supports the external battery and can be detachably mounted at the electric apparatus and a battery cover that is positioned and set so as to enclose the external battery supported by the battery support bed.

As the battery cover is positioned and set at the battery support bed and the lid is attached at the battery cover, the battery support bed and the battery cover come to constitute an integrated unit via the lid, and as the lid is detached, the battery support bed and the battery cover become disengaged from each other, thereupon ceasing to constitute the integrated unit.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIGS. ~~12(a) to 12(d)~~ 12A to 12E are respectively a plan view, a front view, a bottom view and left and right side elevations of the auxiliary battery apparatus achieved in the second embodiment;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIGS. ~~14(a) and 14(b)~~ 14A and 14B illustrate the lock mechanism of the auxiliary battery apparatus;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. ~~17(a) and 17(b)~~ 17A and 17B are respectively a plan view and a side elevation of the auxiliary battery apparatus with the battery chamber lid attached thereto; and

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIG. 12 shows~~ Figs. 12A - 12E show an auxiliary battery apparatus achieved in the embodiment and FIG. 13 shows the procedure through which the auxiliary battery apparatus

is mounted at the flash apparatus main body 52. The auxiliary battery apparatus 55 includes a battery loading unit constituted of a battery support bed 53 and a cover 54. The battery support bed 53 and the cover 54 are separate members which are fitted together to constitute an integrated unit as the auxiliary battery apparatus 55 is mounted at the flash apparatus main body 52.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In addition, a lock mechanism such as that shown in FIG. 14 is provided at the auxiliary battery apparatus 55. The lock mechanism includes a lock pin ~~53i~~ 53j supported at the battery support bed 53 so as to be allowed to move up and down, a lock spring 53k that applies an upward force to the lock pin ~~53i~~ 53j and a lock pin slip-preventing ring 53l, and prevents the auxiliary battery apparatus 55 from being inadvertently disengaged by engaging the lock pin ~~53i~~ 53j to the main body. The lock pin ~~53i~~ 53j becomes engaged with the main body as it is pressed against a sloping surface 51d formed at the battery chamber lid 51 (details are to be provided later).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, with the battery E5 supported on the battery support bed 53, the cover 54 is placed at the battery support bed 53 so as to enclose the battery E5 (see FIG. 15). Then, the battery chamber lid 51 having been disengaged is placed at the opening at the top surface of the cover 54 and is slid along direction B so as to engage the projections 54a at the cover 54 into the grooves 51a and engage the slip-preventing walls 51b and 51c into the grooves 53f and 53g at the battery support bed 53 respectively (see FIG. 16). Thus, as the battery chamber

lid 51 is mounted, the battery support bed 53 and the cover 54 come to constitute an integrated unit via the battery chamber lid 51 and the battery E5 at the battery support bed 53 becomes completely concealed (see ~~FIG. 17~~ Figs. 17A and 17B).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Then, the sloping surface 51d provided at one end of the battery chamber lid 51 presses the lock pin 53j against the force applied by the spring 53k by interlocking with the attachment of the battery chamber lid 51, causing the front end of the lock pin 53j to become engaged into an engaging portion of the main body (see FIG. ~~14(a)~~ 14A). Thus, any sliding movement of the auxiliary battery apparatus 55 along direction A becomes disallowed to prevent the auxiliary battery apparatus 55 from falling inadvertently.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

While the auxiliary battery apparatus 55 needs to be disengaged from the flash apparatus main body 52 when replacing the batteries, the auxiliary battery apparatus 55 having been locked with the lock mechanism described above must be first unlocked. The lock is released by removing the battery chamber lid 51 from the cover 54. Namely, as shown in FIG. ~~14(b)~~ 14B, the force pressing on the lock pin 53j is released as the battery chamber lid 51 is removed, thereby allowing the force applied by the spring 53k to move the lock pin 53j upward. As a result, the front end of the lock pin 53j retreats from the engaging portion at the flash apparatus main body 52. At the same time, since the battery support bed 53 and the cover 54 no longer constitute an integrated unit without the battery chamber lid 51 and the cover 54 and the battery support bed 53 become separated from each other, the battery E5

becomes exposed to the outside. In this state, the battery support bed 53 is slid along direction A and is disengaged from the flash apparatus main body 52, and then the batteries are replaced.